

**PHARMACY EXAMINING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 13, 2004**

PRESENT: Cynthia Benning, R.Ph.; Michael Bettiga, R.Ph.; John Bohlman, R.Ph.; Georgina Forbes; Frederic E. Moskol, R.Ph.; Charlotte Rasmussen; Susan Sutter, R.Ph.

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Ryan, Bureau Director; William Black, DRL Counsel to the Board; Kevin Murphy, Bureau Assistant.

GUESTS: Rich Verschay, R.Ph; Larry P. Edwards, Wisconsin Corrections Pharmacy; Mark Grapentine, Wisconsin Medical Society; Lori Jensen, UW-Madison Pharmacy Student; Tom Engels, PSW.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michael Bettiga called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. All members were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Cynthia Benning moved, seconded by John Bohlman, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT – MS. RASMUSSEN

MOTION: Charlotte Rasmussen moved, seconded by Susan Sutter, to validate examination scores. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed a meeting to review the MPJE exams. It will be held at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, August 10 and will conclude at 1:30 p.m. The Examination will begin at 2 p.m. The Board requested DRL Legal Counsel's presence at the meeting. On August 11th, the Board will have screening at 8 a.m. and its regularly held meeting at 9 a.m.

CONSULTATION EXAMINATION FORMAT

Mr. Bettiga commented that there is a general consensus to continue the exam, but he raised questions regarding its format. Of particular concern was the passage rate for out of state graduates as opposed to Wisconsin graduates.

Frederic Moskol stated that pharmacy has undergone overwhelming changes in the last 12 years (the date of the exam's inception), and that it is time to reevaluate the exam. The Board discussed the distinction between technical "know-how" and occupational experience. Ms. Benning then discussed the importance of a pharmacist's counseling skills and the need for holding accountable pharmacists who offer faulty consultations. Mr. Bettiga stated the need to remove from within the exam any barrier to out of state reciprocity.

MOTION: Cynthia Benning moved, seconded by John Bohlman, to direct the Bureau Director to contact NABP about a survey on the pharmacy exams of all 50 states, and to explore supplemental exams—other than MPJE and NAPLEX—given in other states. Motion carried unanimously.

DOE MONITORING

Mr. Ryan noted the monitoring liaison motion will be up for renewal at the August meeting.

NABP MODEL REGULATIONS FOR WHOLESALE DRUG DISTRIBUTORS

The Board discussed whether Wisconsin pharmacy regulations need modification to comply with NABP model rules. Ms. Sutter noted that these model rules are primarily a response to internet pharmacies and “rogue sites” where drugs can be accessed. Ms. Sutter stressed the importance of verifying the legitimacy of all wholesale drug distributors. Ms. Benning noted that it would not be prudent to implement the entire NABP proposal, but that portions are worth consideration. Mr. Bohlman stated that it would be unwise for Wisconsin to lead the way on any policy changes. The Board asked the Bureau Director to research steps being taken by other states with respect to regulatory changes. The Board also discussed concerns over out of state drug distributors circumventing Wisconsin regulation in sales to Wisconsin residents.

MOTION: John Bohlman moved, seconded by Susan Sutter, to direct the Bureau Director to contact NABP to see if states are taking action in response to the NABP Model Regulations for Wholesale Drug Distributors; and if so, what particular steps are being taken. Motion carried unanimously.

STERILE PHARMACEUTICALS

Ms. Benning inquired about the Board’s intent and role with respect to Sterile Pharmaceuticals rules. Ms. Benning then noted that USP regulations are far stricter than Wisconsin regulations. Later, Ms. Benning discussed whether the Board should simply enforce its own rules, or begin a transition to USP rules. DRL Board Counsel stated that options available to the Board include amending Chapter 15, or maintaining current Wisconsin regulations if the FDA does not enforce the USP rule.

Ms. Benning and Mr. Bohlman said that major physical plant changes—and substantial private expenditures—would be necessary to comply with USP regulations. Mr. Bohlman commented on the risk management issues for insurers. DRL Board Counsel commented that immediate action is not necessary, but that the Board should monitor the issue because potential problems loom. Ms. Benning will be attending a USP meeting on August 7th and 8th, 2004; and she will bring forth the Board’s concerns regarding the new rules. The Board agreed to revisit the issue once Ms. Benning returns from the meeting.

PRESCRIPTION MONITORING - CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

The Board discussed tracking prescriber patterns. Ms. Benning noted that pending federal legislation would mandate that every state adopt its own program for monitoring prescriber patterns, and that in 26 states such a program has been implemented already. The Board raised questions about who bears the costs for this program—pharmacies, prescribers, or the state. Ms. Sutter urged the gathering of outside input from other state officials to such a program before pursuing legislation. The Board discussed the logistical benefits of such a proposal, including more timely investigations and the ability to clearly identify diversion and fraud.

MOTION: John Bohlman moved, seconded by Susan Sutter, for Cynthia Benning to explore the preparatory steps with respect to devising and implementing a plan for Prescription Monitoring of Controlled Substances. Motion carried unanimously.

VETERINARY COMPOUNDING

The Board questioned whether the issue of veterinary compounding was of concern to the Veterinary Board. The Bureau Director agreed to address the issue with the Veterinary Board Chair, and to report back to the Pharmacy Board with their reaction.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Cynthia Benning moved, seconded by Susan Sutter, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Next Meeting August 11, 2004